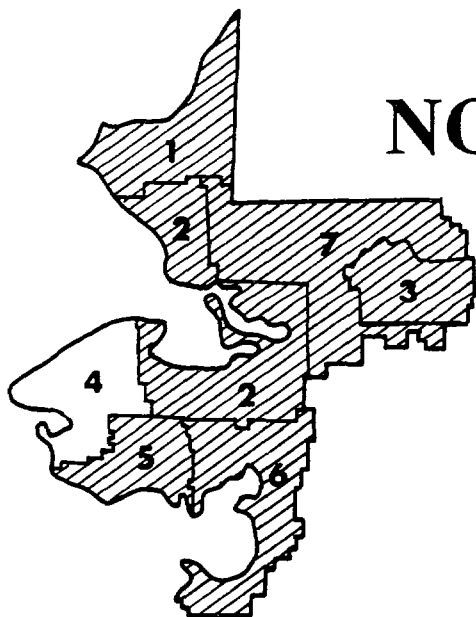


Management Unit 4: NORTHWEST SEWARD PENINSULA



Background

Location and Land Ownership. Management Unit 4 includes lands on the Northwest Seward Peninsula from Cape Woolley to the boundary of the Northwest Arctic Borough just west of Cape Espenberg. The state owns the central part of the peninsula, and the upper drainages of the Nuluk, Arctic, Serpentine, Kougarok, American, and Agiapuk rivers. There are overlapping state and Native selections on the southern edge of this block of state land, and on the western tip of the peninsula in the York Mountains. The state also owns all tidelands and submerged lands along the outer coast and the protected inland waters in this region, such as Shishmaref Inlet, Arctic Lagoon, Lopp Lagoon, Port Clarence, Grantley Harbor, and Imuruk Basin. State land also includes the beds of the Kuzitrin, Agiapuk, Nuluk, Pinguk, Kaguerak, Kugrupaga, Arctic, and Serpentine rivers and other navigable waters. The remainder of the area, including nearly all uplands along the coast, is primarily in Native or federal ownership. Several parcels of private land, such as Native allotments and patented mining claims, exist in this unit. Federal lands on the northern half of

the peninsula are within the Bering Land Bridge National Monument. A portion of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge is located near Cape York.

Resources and Land Use. Shishmaref, Wales, Teller, and Brevig Mission are year-round communities within this unit. Mary's Igloo (also called Kauwerak) was one of the first Native villages on the Seward Peninsula, but now is used only seasonally. The people from Mary's Igloo are residing in Teller until re-establishment of their community. Many of the residents of Nome use land within this unit. Residents of Diomed Island also own and use land in this unit.

The most common use of state land in this unit is for subsistence use of fish, wildlife, and other resources. Extensive wetlands provide important nesting habitat for waterfowl, and coastal areas and lagoons support marine mammals and fish. The adjacent uplands support moose, muskox, and bear. Reindeer winter range is scattered throughout the central part of the unit.

The Imuruk area is used for recreational activities, such as boating, beachcombing, and bird watching. A six-township area near Taylor and

Ear Mountain supports many active placer mining claims. The Kougarok Mountain mining area and the Lost River area are known to have significant reserves of tin. The Shishmaref area also was part of the past Hope Basin proposed oil and gas lease sale. This lease sale is not on the current state five-year lease schedule, but may be offered later.

Access. Four major communities in the unit have airports. Floatplanes and wheeled planes can land along much of the coastline on the beaches and lagoons. Access to the southern portion of this unit occurs along the Nome-Teller road, and from the road to the coast by trail. The Kougarok Road ends in the eastern portion of the unit south of Black Dome, and trails continue to Serpentine Hot Springs. Much winter travel is by snow machines along the coast and on inland trails. Boat access is also common, particularly along the coast, along the Agiapuk River, and in Port Clarence. Port Clarence is the best anchorage in western Alaska north of Dutch Harbor.

Management Intent

General. State land in this unit will be kept in public ownership and managed for multiple use. All state land in this unit will be available for leasing for coal or oil and gas. All state land will remain open to mineral entry, except for tide and submerged lands within a quarter-mile radius of two seabird rookeries. State-owned shorelands

in this unit will be managed consistent with the general management intent as described on page 3-4.

Subunits. There are six subunits in the Northwest Seward Peninsula management unit: 4a (habitat and harvest tidelands), 4b (general use uplands), 4c (mineral/habitat and harvest lands), 4d (mineral lands), 4e (general use tidelands), 4f (habitat and harvest uplands). The general management intent for these subunits is described on pages 3-4 to 3-6.

The *Resource Information Summary* chart for this unit highlights important resource values found in each subunit. The summary is based on information from various resource reports prepared for the plan (see appendices C and D).

The *Land Use Designation Summary* chart for this unit provides a quick picture of planned uses for each subunit. For a complete description of management policy, the chart must be used with the statement of management intent and the management guidelines.

Coastal Plans. Most of the unit is within the Bering Straits Coastal Resource Service Area. Activities on state land will be consistent with the policies and guidelines of the Bering Straits Coastal Management Plan (CMP). The areas listed below have been designated as Important Use Areas in the Bering Straits CMP, with special policies in the CMP for these areas (see maps in Appendix J).

Important Use Areas	Subunit
Agiapuk River	4f - habitat and harvest uplands
Arctic River	4f - habitat and harvest uplands
Brevig Lagoon	4a - habitat and harvest tidelands
Cape Woolley	4a - habitat and harvest tidelands, and 4f - habitat and harvest uplands
Grantley Harbor, Imuruk Basin, and Tuksuk Channel	4a - habitat and harvest tidelands
Ikpek Lagoon and Nuluk, Pinguk, Kaguerak, and Kugrupaga Rivers	4a - habitat and harvest tidelands, 4b - general use uplands, and 4f - habitat and harvest uplands

(continued on next page)

*(continued from previous page)***Important Use Areas****Subunit**

Kuzitrin River and Wetlands

4f - habitat and harvest uplands

Lopp Lagoon, Cape Prince of Wales

4a - habitat and harvest tidelands

Lost River Area

4e - general use tidelands

Port Clarence

4f - habitat and harvest uplands

Serpentine River

4a - habitat and harvest tidelands

In addition, the Bering Straits CMP recommended two areas in this unit for AMSAs (Areas Meriting Special Attention)--Port Clarence and Cape Prince of Wales. Part of the proposed Pilgrim River/Salmon Lake AMSA is also in this unit. When an AMSA plan is adopted for these areas, state land management will also be consistent with AMSA policies.

anadromous streams and narrow openings of enclosed estuaries such as lagoons, inlets, or basins. These areas are shown on the management unit map. For many of these stream mouths and estuaries, the location of the opening is dynamic, and the guideline will apply to their location at the time of a proposed action. Within these subunits, this guideline applies to the following areas:

Management Guidelines

Bird Rookeries and Subsurface Resources (Subunits 4a and 4e). Most state land in these subunits will remain open to new mineral entry. However, state tidelands with high or very high mineral potential within one-quarter mile of two seabird colonies--Cape York and King River (Subunit 4e)--will be closed to new mineral entry to protect this important habitat. These colonies are shown on the *Subsurface Designation Summary Map*, page 2-51, and are described in detail in Appendix H, *Mineral Orders for the Northwest Area Plan*. Special guidelines apply to all state land within one mile of any bird rookery identified on the management unit map; see Chapter 2, *Fish and Wildlife Habitat Guideline K*, page 2-8.

Commercial Recreation (Subunits 4a, 4e, and 4f). *Public and Commercial Recreation Guideline D*, page 2-23, describes state management for commercial recreation. For these subunits, this guideline prohibits commercial recreation leasing in the following areas: 21 anadromous stream mouths or enclosed estuaries, 1 marine mammal haulout, and 6 seabird rookeries, as shown on the management unit map.

Mouths of Anadromous Streams or Enclosed Estuaries (Subunits 4a, 4e, and 4f). *Fish and Wildlife Habitat Guideline J*, page 2-8, describes state management for mouths of

Anadromous Streams

Agiapuk River
Arctic River
Bluestone River
Cobblestone River
Feather River (2 mouths)
Kuzitrin River
Nuluk River
Pinguk River
Serpentine River
Spruce Creek
Trout Creek
Unnamed river west of Arctic River

Enclosed Estuaries

Arctic Lagoon
Brevig Lagoon
Grantley Harbor
Ikpek Lagoon
Lopp Lagoon
Shismaref Inlet
Tuksuk Channel
Unnamed lagoon northeast of Shishmaref Inlet

Selections (Subunits 4b and 4f). State selections are recommended for three new areas -- along the Nome-Teller road, in the Kigluaik Mountains near Mt. Osborne, and northeast of Wales. The Nome-Teller Road area includes the road right-of-way and lands along the road, many

of which are Native-selected. The road and trails that extend from the road to the coast provide important access in this region. The lands are proposed for selection because they are accessible, have mineral values, are used for grazing (including a fawning area), and are adjacent to other state land.

The Mt. Osborne area includes lands proposed for state selection just north of the Nome-Kougarok Road in the Kigluaik Mountains. The area is very scenic. The subunit's south slope is a popular camping, hunting, and fishing destination for Nome residents. The northern slope is an important subsistence moose hunting area for Brevig Mission residents. The land should be selected because of its values for minerals, public recreation, subsistence, and accessibility. Half of the proposed selection would overlap an existing Native selection.

The plan also recommends selections in the area east and north of Wales. These few isolated blocks of land are selected for mineral values and to consolidate land ownership patterns.

General. The complete set of areawide guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. The *Resource Information Summary* charts for this unit identify important trails, known or probable heritage sites, and other resource values in specific subunits that are addressed by the appropriate guidelines in Chapter 2. Any Chapter 2 guidelines could apply to certain uses within this management unit. Those most likely to apply are:

- Coordination and public notice
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Grazing
- Heritage resources
- Subsurface resources
- Trail management

**RESOURCE INFORMATION
SUMMARY**
begins on next page



RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 4: Northwest Seward Peninsula - Page 1 of 2

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT		
	4a	4b	4c
Fire Protection	N/A	Limited north of Nuluk River and Budd Creek. Modified in southern portions to Amercian River. Full along Agiapuk River to Don Creek.	Limited
Fish and Wildlife	A1: 14 mouths of anadromous streams, inlets, and lagoons; three seabird rookeries. A2/B1: marine mammals, marine fish, ducks, geese, brown bear, polar bear, moose, shorebirds, anadromous and resident fish.	B2: moose, brown bear.	B1: moose, brown bear, anadromous fish.
Forestry	Driftwood	None	None
Heritage Resources	Known or high probability sites along coast, especially near Shishmaref, Cape Prince of Wales, Brevig Mission, Teller, Imuruk Basin, Nuluk, Agiapuk and Serpentine Rivers.	Probable sites along Mint, Pinguk, Nuluk, American, and Serpentine Rivers.	Historic mining activity in the Ear Mtn. and Taylor areas.
Important Trails	Shishmaref to Serpentine Hot Springs; Nome to Teller (along coast); Brevig to Teller; Teller/Brevig to Shishmaref (two routes); Teller/Brevig to Wales (along coast and overland); Teller/Brevig to Point Spencer (across Port Clarence); Brevig to Serpentine Hot Springs (north from Mary's Igloo); From Nome-Teller Road to Cape Woolley (along Feather River or Tisuk River).	Trails inland along Pinguk, Nuluk, Kugrupaga, and Arctic Rivers; Dahl Creek-Candle Trail; Coco Creek trail; Brevig/Teller to Shishmaref (two routes); Mary's Igloo to Serpentine Hot Springs.	Kougarok River
Minerals	Low or not rated.	Low to very high.	High to very high; mineral claims present; active placer and tin potential at Kougarok and Ear Mtn. mining areas.
Oil & Gas	Part of area in past-proposed Hope Basin sale.	No potential identified.	
Public Access	Coastal trails, wheelplane and floatplane landings in numerous locations along coast.	Airstrips at Harris and Black Domes. Trail access; Kougarok Road; boat access along Kougarok River; Woolley Lagoon Road.	Mining trails along rivers and creeks.
Recreation	Some bird watching near Grantley Harbor, some camping and boating on Nugnugaluktuk and Serpentine Rivers; potential recreation on Nuluk, Pinguk and Arctic Rivers; beach combing along coast.	Unknown	Unknown
Reindeer Grazing	N/A	Almost entirely winter range, except for Portage Creek drainage and areas between Budd and Igloo Creeks. Subunits east and west of Ear Mountain within a fawning area. Fawning area in valley SE of Casseterite Peak.	Some winter range in the Taylor area.
Settlement Suitability	N/A	Low potential within 1 mile of access routes; remainder of unit unsuitable.	Low potential near access systems, remainder unsuitable.
Subsistence	See note on next page		

See Appendix C for a list of reports with more detailed information, and Appendix D for definition of ratings.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 4: Northwest Seward Peninsula - Page 2 of 2

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT		
	4d	4e	4f
Fire Protection	Limited	N/A	North - limited; south and coastal - full; In between - modified.
Fish and Wildlife	B2: moose, brown bear.	A1: three seabird colonies (one at Tin City, two at Cape York); A2: along coast for marine mammals, marine fish, ducks, geese (spring, fall, nesting), brown bear, polar bear, anadromous fish.	A2/B1: moose, brown bear, anadromous fish; some portions upgraded due to human use.
Forestry	None	Driftwood	None
Heritage Resources	Historic mining activity in the Taylor area.	Probable sites near Cape York.	High probability of sites along Mint, Pinguk, Nuluk, Agiapuk, American, and Serpentine Rivers.
Important Trails	Teller to Ear Mountain; Kougarok River Road trail; Mary's Igloo to Serpentine Hot Springs.	Coastal trails: Teller to Wales; Brevig/Teller to Port Clarence.	Shishmaref to Teller (2 routes); Dahl Creek to Candle; Kougarok River, Pinguk R., Nuluk R., Kugrupaga R., Arctic R.
Minerals	High to very high; mineral claims present.	Unknown	Very low to high; mining claims present.
Oil & Gas	No potential identified.	No potential identified.	No potential identified.
Public Access	Airstrips near Taylor and at Ear Mountain; mining trails along rivers and creeks; Kougarok Road to Taylor, Teller Road and overland trail to Ear Mountain.	Floatplane or wheelplane landing areas along coast; landing strips near Port Clarence, Tin City, Lost River; coastal trails.	Four community airstrips; Teller Road, Kougarok Road; Airstrips at Igloo; Dahl Creek to Candle trail; numerous inland trails along valley bottoms; Shishmaref - Teller trail along portions of Krueger and American Creeks; boat access along Kougarok R.
Recreation	Unknown	Birdwatching and beachcombing along coast and within lagoons.	Some camping along rivers, some scenic views.
Reindeer Grazing	Some winter range in Taylor area. Entire Ear Mountain area within a fawning area.	N/A	Some winter range; several fawning areas.
Settlement Suitability	Low potential near access systems, remainder unsuitable.	N/A	Low potential within 1 mi. of all access systems. Remainder of unit unsuitable. Some incapable areas in active floodplains along Pinguk, Nuluk, Arctic, Agiapuk, and American Rivers.
Subsistence	Subsistence use in this unit has been documented by studies of the DF&G, Subsistence Division, for the communities of Brevig Mission, Deering, and Shishmaref. Subsistence use by other communities--such as Mary's Igloo, Nome, Teller, and Wales--is known to exist, but the extent of their use has not been documented in studies for the NWAP.		

See Appendix C for a list of reports with more detailed information, and Appendix D for definition of ratings.

LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT 4 - NORTHWEST SEWARD PENINSULA

SUBUNIT	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS			COMMENTS
	PRIMARY SURFACE USE ¹	PROHIBITED SURFACE USE ²	SUBSURFACE ³	
4a	Habitat & harvest tidelands	Remote cabins Commercial rec. leases in some areas	Open	
4b	General use uplands	Land disposals Remote cabins	Open	Portions of several townships proposed for state selection east of Lopp Lagoon, along Teller Road, and near Mt. Osborne.
4c	Minerals/ Habitat & harvest lands	Land disposals Remote cabins	Open	
4d	Mineral lands	Land disposals Remote cabins	Open	
4e	General use tidelands	Remote cabins Commercial rec. leases in some areas	Open, except within 1/4 mile of 2 seabird rookeries	
4f	Habitat & harvest uplands	Land disposals Remote cabin Commercial rec. leases in some areas	Open	Portions of several townships proposed for state selection east of Lopp Lagoon, along Teller Road, and near Mt. Osborne.

¹Secondary uses include: grazing in all subunits, and recreation in subunits 4a, 4e, and 4f. For more details, see the Resource Information Summary for this unit, and Appendix D.

²Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

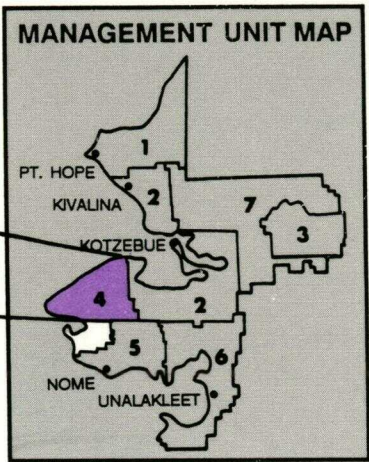
³All areas are available for leasing for leasable minerals. Statements of whether or not the unit is open to mineral entry refer only to locatable minerals. See glossary in Appendix A for definitions of leasable and locatable minerals. See Appendix H for detailed descriptions of areas closed to mineral entry.

LEGEND

- Management Unit Boundary
- 4a Subunit Boundary
- No Pattern State Owned
- + + State Selected
- Proposed State Selection
- Native Owned
- Native Selected
- Native/State Selected
- Federal
- X Marine Mammal Haulouts
- Bird Rookeries
- ▲ Anadromous Stream Mouths or Enclosed Estuaries

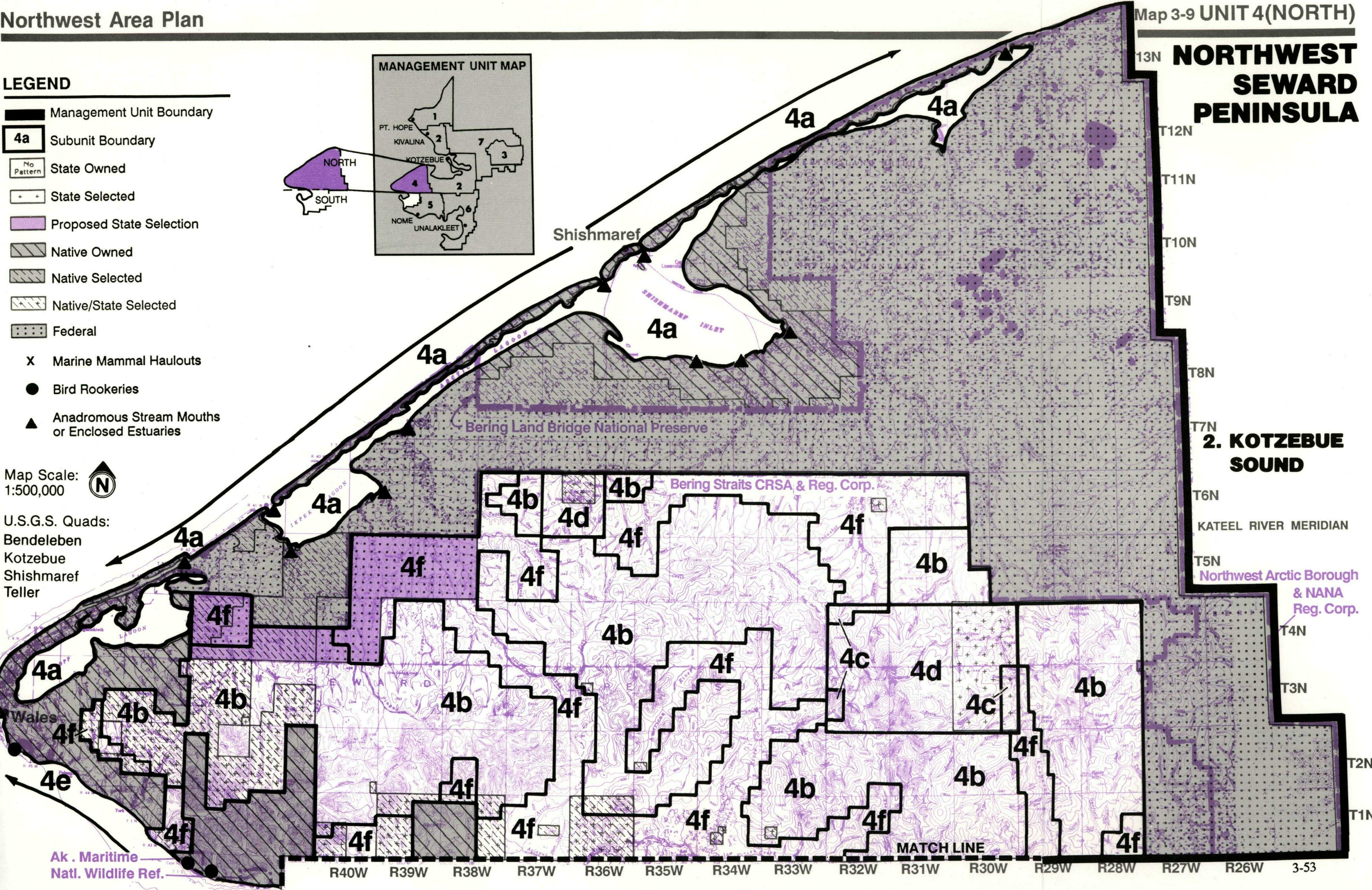
Map Scale: 1:500,000

U.S.G.S. Quads:
Bendeleben
Kotzebue
Shishmaref
Teller



NORTHWEST SEWARD PENINSULA

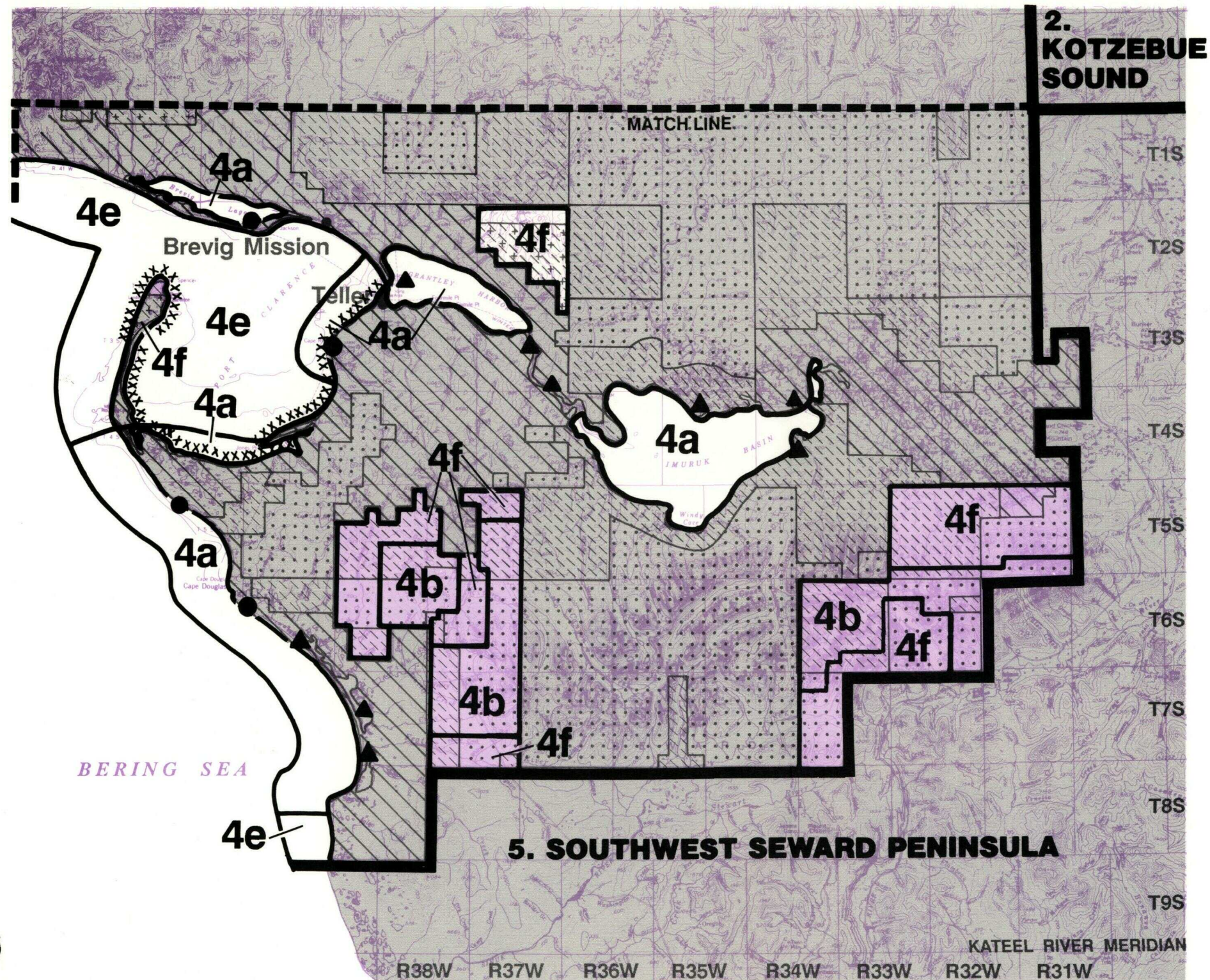
2. KOTZEBUE SOUND



Ak. Maritime Natl. Wildlife Ref.

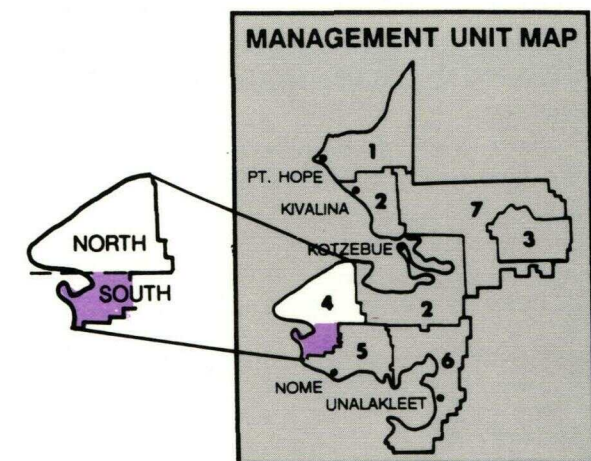
Northwest Area Plan

NORTHWEST SEWARD PENINSULA



LEGEND

- Management Unit Boundary
- Subunit Boundary
- State Owned
- State Selected
- Proposed State Selection
- Native Owned
- Native Selected
- Native/State Selected
- Federal
- Marine Mammal Haulouts
- Bird Rookeries
- Anadromous Stream Mouths or Enclosed Estuaries



Map Scale: 1:500,000

U.S.G.S. Quads: Nome, Teller